

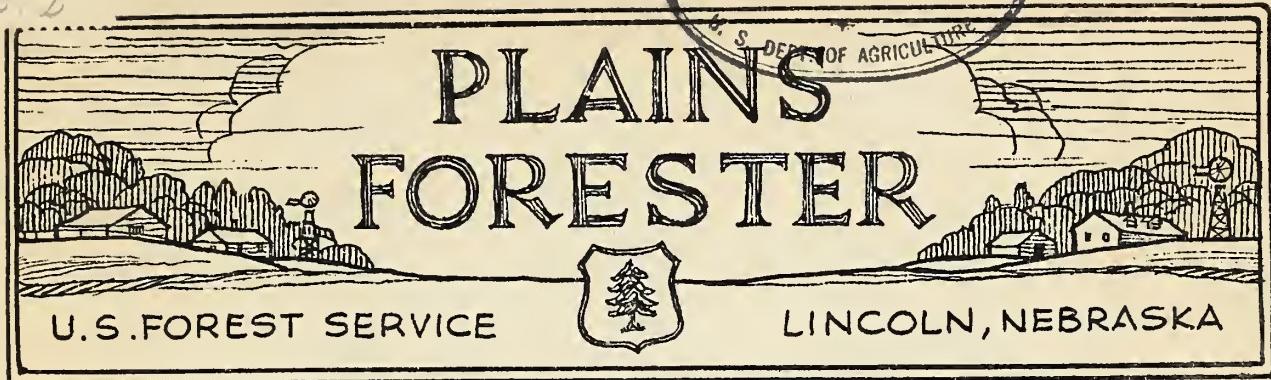
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Vol. 2, No. 1

January - 1937

THE NEW YEAR

With the advent of the new year, I feel that it is fitting that we pause for a few moments and take stock of the manner in which we have met our responsibilities during the past twelve months.

I think that we can view our accomplishments with some satisfaction. That we have made mistakes, both as individuals and as an organization, goes without saying; everyone who achieves anything makes mistakes and the real test of ability is the capacity for seeing and admitting them, and for profiting by them. But on the other hand, a big and difficult job has been creditably done, and most important of all the personnel has maintained its morale and an unswerving loyalty to the job in the face of what appeared to be constantly impending disaster.

What the future holds in store for us, beyond our present liquidation plans, no one may know. That a publicly sponsored tree-planting program will, indeed must, be carried on in the Plains Region I have not the slightest doubt; whether the time is yet ripe for it from the standpoint of public acknowledgement of the necessity for it remains to be seen. That the public is measurably nearer that acknowledgement than at this time last year is certain and gratifying, and is directly traceable to the success of the planting work that we have done.

However, let us not worry about the future. Let us instead prepare to make the most of whatever opportunities may offer, and if worst comes to worst to be able to say with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight...I have kept the faith."

---P. H. R.

RANGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Field work in the 1936 Range Program was completed in December in time for all of the examiners to return to their headquarters or take leave during the holidays. Efforts since that time have been confined to analysis of the 1936 project in order to make the best possible use of our past experience on future programs, and to making plans and estimates for an expected 1937 Range Building Program. Recently I made a trip through Oklahoma and Texas to get an idea of range conditions and problems there. A general condition of serious depletion of the vegetation and soil fertility exists on the ranges of those States, and rebuilding of that resource, which will require many years, must be based largely on educational work so that ranchers may recognize the true conditions and the downward trends on their range lands; and this education must be supplemented by inducements in the form of assistance to those who are willing to practice conservative stocking and such other range management as will be helpful.

It is understood that representatives of the AAA and the Forest Service in Washington are now working out the details of a Range Building Program for 1937; and it is expected that information about it will be forthcoming within a few weeks.

- F. Lee Kirby

COMPLIMENTS THE FOREST SERVICE

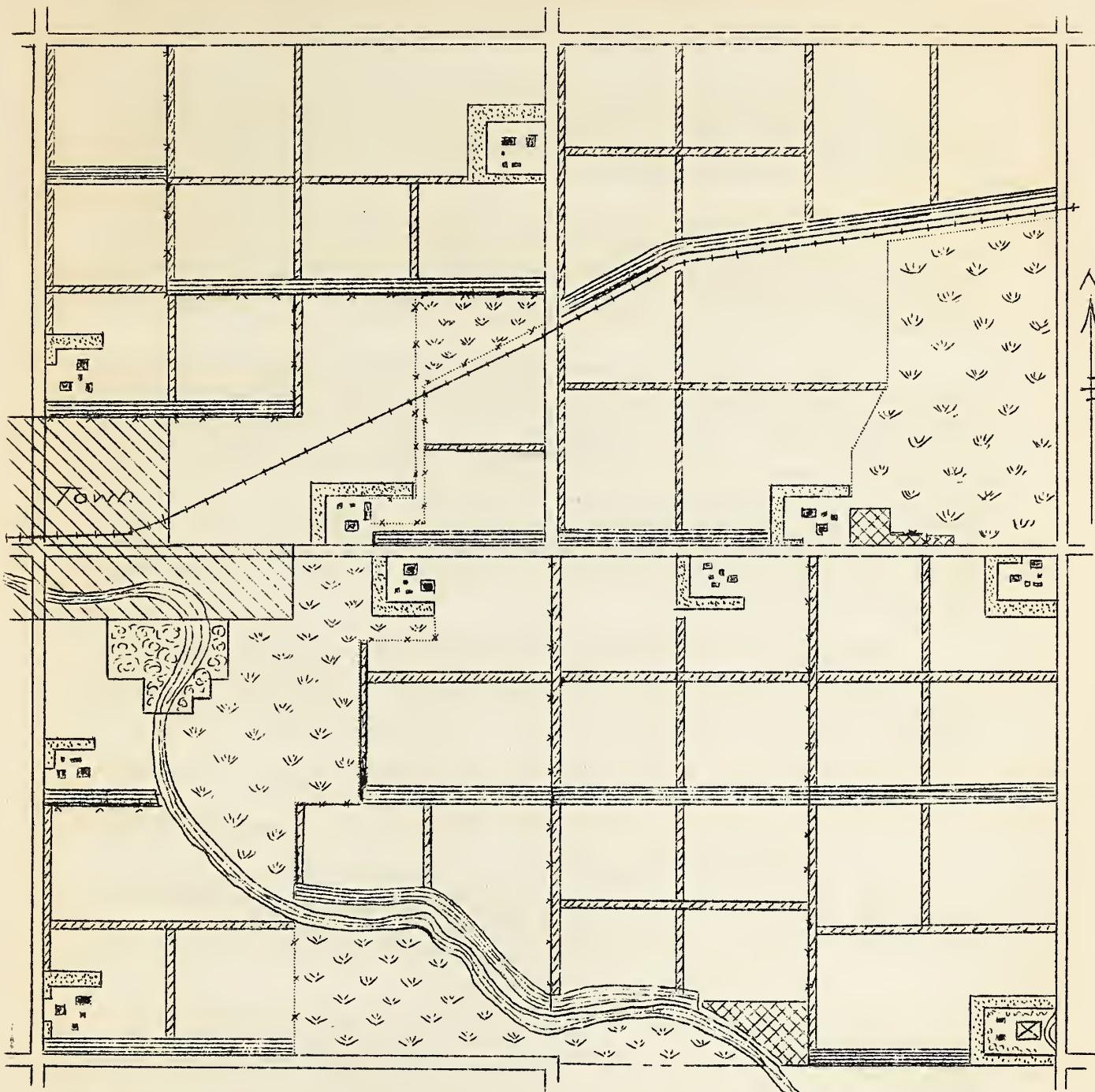
Stuart Chase in his book "Rich Land, Poor Land" has some mighty nice things to say about the Forest Service. Following are some excerpts from the book: "...The Forest Service is the seasoned corps which stiffens, instructs and frequently salvages the errors of the green new armies of conservation. It has been through the wars for a generation, ever since Gifford Pinchot first led it into battle. ...The Forest Service must know its stuff. It has the biggest tree job in the world. ...Like the coast guard, the Forest Service attracts a superior type of human being, a happy combination of woodsman and scientist."

A VISION OF TIMBER MANAGEMENT

The accompanying plot (Figure 1, page 3) of four sections of farm land in the Great Plains Region attempts to show a theoretically complete tree-planting layout for (1) the ideal protection of fields, farm homes, and livestock; (2) the production of wood products, namely, fuel and fence posts; (3) bird and wildlife protection; (4) recreation; (5) rural school protection and beautification.

A series of shelterbelts, five to seven rods in width, running east and west and approximately one-half mile apart, make up the framework of the scheme. These plantings, together with larger areas of municipal or county recreational parks and windbreaks for rural schools, could be the responsibility of the Forest Service. Such planting as farm windbreaks, woodlots and narrow (one to three rows) intermediate field shelterbelts would be sponsored by the Extension Service, and planted by the individual landowner. Plants for these plantings would necessarily be furnished by the individual and could be obtained not only from commercial nurseries, but also from the Extension Service under the Clarke-McNary Law.

FIGURE 1
(See preceding page)



■ School
▨ Intermediate Field Hedge Rows
▨ Standard 5 to 7-rod Field Shelterbelts
▨ Farm Windbreaks
▨ Farm Woodlots
▨ Cultivated Fields

— Public Roads
- - - Railroad
* * Property Lines
* * Pasture Fences
▨ Recreational Areas
▨ Pasture

SOUTH DAKOTA GOES RABBIT HUNTING

This is the worst winter for rabbit injury in this State in recent years. Serious damage to shelterbelt strips has already occurred in the Huron and Redfield areas in spite of the application of approved control measures.

Senior Shelterbelt Assistant Pierce and the Biological Survey folks have organized rabbit drives in the Huron area that are bringing gratifying results. The purpose of this yarn is to make the system we use available to other States who might want to attempt it.

At Huron, the drives are being sponsored by the local American Legion Post in cooperation with the Shelterbelt Project. Jack rabbits have been bringing about ten cents each and this money goes to the local cooperating organizations for use in the various public-spirited projects that are being carried on in the community.

On Sunday, December 20, a total of 1800 jack rabbits were killed in three drives without a shot being fired. Nearly a thousand local people participated. In conducting one of these drives, the first step is to construct the corral. This is made of small mesh woven wire. Long wings are then constructed of chicken wire, extending from 30 to 40 rods in both directions from an opening in the corral. From four to six sections of land are covered in each drive, depending on the size of the crowd participating. The rabbits are driven toward the corral and the wire wings direct them to the opening. When all are trapped they are killed with clubs.

Drives are to be conducted in the Huron area each Sunday during the winter, when weather will permit. The corrals are changed and a new area driven each week. Our relief labor changes and builds the corrals each week. Two men can complete one in around a day and a half.

We believe this scheme has real merits for a number of reasons:

- (1) It certainly cleans up the rabbits that are causing serious damage to our trees.
- (2) It furnishes a real day's sport for the local people.
- (3) The sale of the rabbits materially strengthens the treasury of the various local cooperating organizations.
- (4) It greatly strengthens and increases support for our project on the part of the public.

Our State Office people were invited to attend the drives on Sunday, December 27. A. L. Ford, Max Pfaender and Bob Rice from the State Office attended and had a lot of fun and sport. Bob Lusk, Chairman of the Reforestation Committee, South Dakota State Planning Board, secured the services of a photographer who took pictures of the drive, insisting that the Shelterbelt people be in the foreground. These pictures were published in many of the leading newspapers of the State. We find that when we cooperate with people and organizations, they will cooperate with us.

- A.L.Ford

TALKING ON YOUR FEET

We hate to soak up two pages of PLAINS FORESTER in any one subject, but the following hints on public speaking are well worth it. Nearly all of us are faced with the necessity for "making a few remarks" at one time or another, and most of us do it in a manner that makes us want to kick ourselves for a week afterward. And the Lord knows what the audience would like to do about it. Absorb - and practice - the principles here set forth, and never again will the customers in the back rows carry on sotto-voice conversations during your oration. They were "Condensed, garbled, and reported" from an article by John M. Garth in "American Business and System," by Wilfred W. White of R-1, and published in R-1 Bulletin.

1. BEFORE YOU GET UP TO SPEAK

A. General Plan of Talk

1. Outline and learn your chief facts and arrange them in your mind in logical sequence.
2. Prepare and learn illustrations, incidents or examples to dramatize, support and prove the statements you make.
3. Plan an opening which can be tacked on to something the previous speaker may have said, or which can be tied to the chairman's remarks in introducing you.
4. Eliminate such bromides as, "The mills of the gods grind slowly"; "There's something rotten in Denmark," or "Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee."
5. Plan some stunt or method to make your talk different from your predecessor's. Speak from a different location on the platform. Ask the audience to move up closer or walk down into the audience.
6. Bring yourself down to the level of your audience. Be friendly. Forget formalities. Talk in the language of 1935.
7. Dig for specific facts; avoid generalities; mention names; draw on known sources; cite authorities. Never say "Someone said" and "I am not sure of the exact quotation."
8. Not only prepare, but practice. Some high-powered organizations have at least two rehearsals before each meeting. That is, each executive delivers his speech at least twice in rehearsal.

B. Plan Beginning

Meetings cost money. Speakers should not waste time in alibis, and wondering audibly why they were asked to speak. Get going.

The speaker can lose the audience quickly in a floundering start.

One successful speaker always plans to begin his talk with a surprise, by:

1. Taking different place to stand from previous speaker, such as to one side of the stage, step down off rostrum, etc.
2. Informal, if previous speaker formal. Eliminate "Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen." Begin.
3. Mention name of well-known member of audience. Hang a humorous story on some member of the audience.
4. Shake hands with, rather than shake fist at, audience. Begin in friendly fashion rather than in a belligerent manner.
5. Begin with something everyone agrees on and then work into the controversial.
6. Another surprise that puts audience in right mood. Speaker promises to do something hard and then does it. Illustration: "I will show you something never before seen by the human eye and make it disappear never to be seen again by human eye." Then take peanut from pocket, break shell, show nut and eat it. (This is for only a limited few that can get away with it).

C. Plan the Ending - Most important of all, quit on time. Quit sharply - with a surprise. Quit with a strong point. Quit with a constructive idea that leaves the audience wanting to do it. Don't promise to quit and talk about quitting. Do it.

II. BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN

- A. Change your pace and tempo; vary your tone of voice, volume and pitch; vary the speed at which you are talking. Stop once or twice for an extemporaneous idea. Grow confidential a few moments during talk.
- B. Move around; walk to the end of the rostrum. But don't pace monotonously like a wild animal in a cage or some old coot taking his constitutional. Move up closer to the audience; ask listeners in back rows if they can hear you. Show your audience you are interested in them.
- C. Suggest some plan of action - be concrete and specific; leave your hearers with a resolution to take some action on your suggestions.
- D. Explain, illustrate, dramatize, visualize, but don't repeat your important points.
- E. Save some big point for near the end of your talk; offer it as a climax, as a picture of the future, or as a result of your suggestions.
- F. Don't lead up to your close. Don't say, "and now in closing." Go ahead and close, give the audience a surprise.
- G. End on a high but friendly note; do not wobble up to a slow, apologetic finish. Take less time than allotted on the program.

BETTER PLANTING EQUIPMENT

Planting stock, planting trays, shovels, coats, overshoes, dinner pails and men all mixed with wet shingle tow and liberally splashed with water as they bump along in the back of the truck on their way to the planting strips, is anything but conducive to the comfort of the workers. In order to prevent accidents, make the truck more habitable, and to carry on the planting more efficiently, the following suggestions are offered:

1. Equip each truck with a suitable top - light in weight, easy to put on and take off, and durable in construction. Such a top has been found and can be purchased for about \$14.00. It is made of canvas, fits down snugly to the truck bed and gives excellent protection.

2. Suspend a container for the planting trays on each side of the truck just back of the running board. These containers can be made cheaply and will accommodate twenty planting boxes, ten on each side.

3. Supply each truck with a platform to hold the shovels between the sills at the rear. This platform is located just behind the rear axle and is lowered at the front end so that the shovels will not fall out.

4. Furnish each truck with tree boxes which are of a suitable size to be used also as seats. Two of these occupy each side of the truck and each is half the length of the truck. Twenty inches square is a convenient size that can be handled easily, especially if each is supplied with a rope handle.

5. A lunch box shelf can be placed on top of the truck sides crosswise of the body just at the rear of the cab. A two-inch strip can be nailed on the rear of the shelf to prevent the buckets from falling off and the shelf can be made so that it is readily removable.

The above truck attachments can be made in a workmanlike manner and painted green, so that they will not mar the appearance of the truck. They need not be an additional rattle. All of this equipment has been tried out thoroughly and has gone a long way toward solving the problems connected with transportation. Need is also felt for a low-hanging bracket for the water barrel at the rear of the truck. The water will be more accessible to the tree tender and both the barrel and its inevitable splashing can be eliminated from the truck proper. I feel certain that such a bracket can be devised at the back of the truck but as yet this has not been given enough trial to recommend its general use.

The special type planting shovel now in use has established itself as superior to the common type. The objection to the planting shovel is that the operator must stoop over each time as he scrapes away the dry dust before beginning each hole. This constant stooping is very tiring to the older men and often results in poor work. A "V" type point on the shovel, instead of the rounding point, might overcome this difficulty, but this also must be given further experimentation before definite recommendations can be made.

- W.G.Baxter, Kansas

: SOUTH DAKOTA :

A 500% improvement in one month constitutes what most thinking people would regard as an outstanding accomplishment. We think that very thing has happened in connection with the new masthead for the PLAINS FORESTER. Place an old issue beside the December number where they can be compared and see if you don't think we are right. Congratulations, somebody.

Arrangements have been made to turn over all of our undersized liner nursery stock that is not needed by us, to the Biological Survey, as was done last year. They line it out in irrigated nurseries for an additional season's growth before planting it on their various game refuges. This arrangement allows us to make use of our undersized stock and provides a means of cooperation with another Governmental agency. In return for this cooperation, the Biological Survey has collected considerable quantities of seed and wildlings for us through its Sand Lake CCC camp.

No fall planting or replanting was attempted in South Dakota last fall. Plans were made to do some experimental fall planting, but soil moisture was so low that it was deemed inadvisable to carry these plans out.

A total of 497,850 cottonwood wildlings of premium grade were collected and are heeled-in at Brookings. This stock was very scarce and difficult to get this year. This work was cut short because of the fact that cold weather arrived earlier than usual this year. In case they are needed, additional cottonwood wildlings will be collected next spring.

The large Shelterbelt signs which were ordered for strips early last summer recently arrived. We plan to erect these signs this winter, as this is our slack season. None of these signs will be used on 1936 plantings, as the drought prevented satisfactory growth during the 1936 growing season. All fifteen signs will be placed on 1935 strips where they are adjacent to main traveled highways. The 1936 signs will be changed to read 1935.

The "Experience Survey" to determine the value of trees to South Dakota farmers developed some interesting and highly significant data. Admittedly the data lack something of scientific accuracy, being based solely on the estimates of farmers, but after all they represent the best judgment of more than 300 such farmers. It was found that for a farm with "Class A" tree protection; i.e., with a shelterbelt or windbreak at least 10 rows wide, 200 feet long, and 25 feet high, properly located and at least 70% alive, the following average annual benefits obtained:

Saving in fuel consumption	\$20.68
Production of fuel	27.05
Production of posts and poles	14.37
Increase in garden crop production	25.45
Protection to buildings and equipment from wind damage . .	14.28
Increase in field crop production	60.12
Protection to livestock (feed savings and added gains) .	.358.74

: OKLAHOMA :

The replanting program was wound up in Oklahoma December 24, with the exception of a few scattered 1935 strips which were completed after Christmas. Due to the excellent quality of the supervisory personnel detailed to us from the northern States, the cooperative attitude of the WPA, and the indulgent assistance of the weather man, the job went along smoothly and according to schedule. 170.63 miles of strip were replanted and 1,085,000 trees and shrubs used.

Our detailed help consisted of E. C. Wilbur, Thomas C. Hutchinson, Gisli A. Freeman, and R. G. Decde of North Dakota; W. F. Cozine, O. M. Patten, and I. W. Krieger of South Dakota; and Lewis Matthew of Nebraska, who helped in the digging, grazing, wilding collection and replanting work. In addition, Senior Clerk John D. Hall of South Dakota labored over our accounts work in the office and was largely responsible for the fact that the bookkeeping kept pace with the field work.

We hope that the details were as beneficial to the men involved as to this Unit. We learned a lot of new things from them which should be of permanent benefit to us.

Mr. Kyle, Shelterbelt Assistant at Clinton, reports that a great deal of interest is being shown in the planting program since the public has learned that there is a possibility of new spring planting work. He says that applications for shelterbelt strips are coming into his office at the rate of five to eight miles a day. Typical of the attitude of the applicants is that of a Mr. Ramsey of the Washita area, who made application for a shelterbelt planting three-fourths of a mile long, and upon being advised that the details of the cooperative arrangement had not yet been worked out, replied that he was willing to do anything that might be required of him. It looks as though the days of personal solicitation were definitely over and that the chief requisite of a good field man will not be salesmanship, but an ability to do a lot of diplomatic declining.

A bit of winter blew into Oklahoma January 7. Practically the entire State is blanketed with snow, and the temperature has dropped to near zero which, believe it or not, is cold for Oklahoma. Nevertheless we are mighty glad to see the snow. It tends to protect the trees that we have planted, and will improve planting conditions in the spring, when and if we do any.

We read the account of the Regional Office Christmas party with--well, shall we say a little tolerant amusement. Now down here in Oklahoma we had us a Christmas party as was a party. It was held at Mr. Young's home and was complete with tree, presents, Santa Claus, entertainment, and dinner. We had intended trying to describe that dinner but after scratching out "culinary masterpiece," and "gastronomic delight," we gave up. Maybe the Greeks have a word for it. Anyway, man and boy, this scribe has tucked away a considerable number of Christmas dinners, and is willing to award the palm to this one. No wonder little Ronnie Butler made a motion that Christmas be declared a semi-annual event.

: NORTH DAKOTA :

A very sizable wilding collection program was carried on in this Unit last fall--though not without considerable difficulty. Altogether, 450,000 willow cuttings were made, and 574,050 wildings collected. Of the latter, 276,000 were lilacs; 219,000, cottonwoods; 7500, dogwoods; and 1550, boxelder.

At the training school held at Devils Lake under the direction of Mr. Belknap, methods and procedure of handling wildlings were explained to Junior Foremen who were in charge of wilding collection. At this time it was decided that six or seven-man crews would be most advantageous, as considerable driving had to be done in order to find suitable stock. At a meeting held at Mitchell, South Dakota, it was decided that no seedlings would be gathered unless they calipered 3/16 of an inch for lilac, and 1/4 of an inch for cottonwood. This made wilding collecting considerably harder as drouth affected the growth, and collection was correspondingly expensive. All stock was tied in bundles of 50 and tagged as to species, zone, and location, upland or lowland.

Lilac: All easily accessible hedges had been visited in 1935, and due to the fact that stock under 3/16 caliper would not be accepted, and to the fact that extreme care was given in hedge selection as considerable loss was evident due to poor stock in 1935, the lilac digging was a little harder and more expensive than the previous year. However, as shown above, we succeeded in more than meeting our quota. Lilacs that were dug were heeled-in temporarily in each district and later transferred to the central heel-in bed at Jamestown. Very good stock was secured.

Cottonwood: Cottonwoods were gathered at Mandan along the Missouri River under direction of Mr. Hutchinson, Mandan Nurseryman, and Junior Foreman. The wildings were very hard to get because of extreme heat and drouth this summer causing one-year-olds to be too small. The two- and three-year-olds were not very good, as ice jams last spring injured the roots and considerable culling had to be done in order to obtain the best stock. Due to the dry fall, all of the cottonwoods had to be dug with shovels, as the surface of the ground was too hard to allow men to pull them. This caused considerable more work and took more time. About 75 men were employed at this job, divided into 3 crews. Nevertheless, 219,000 cottonwoods were obtained. Some of these were transferred to the Jamestown heel-in bed, and the balance left at the Bismarck heel-in bed. The late arrival of frosts did not permit work to start until October 2. An early freeze terminated the work November 1. Some difficulty was had in securing sufficient labor quickly. A strike of two days' duration handicapped the work somewhat.

Dogwood: Very few dogwood were obtainable, due to drouth and excessive heat. However, 7,500 were collected at Bismarck and were heeled-in at the nursery there.

Boxelder: Very few of these were obtained, as about the time we were ready to dig them some western cattle moved in and completely ruined the sites selected for collection, by trampling. The drouth also took its toll and we were able to collect only about 1,550 of these wildings at Rugby, which were moved into the Jamestown heel-in bed.

: TEXAS :

Slim Engstrom paid us a visit December 11 and 12, and helped us solve our stock-shortage problem by assisting us in obtaining stock from Oklahoma. With the proposed new planting program for spring coming on, we shall be rather hard-pressed for stock for new plantings unless we can obtain still more from the same or other sources.

We now recall with a twinge of conscience some of the derogatory remarks we made about Henry Lobenstein's "Flying Jennies" last spring. After observing some of our boys trying to sink a shovel in the approved manner in what was apparently pure sand, we have come to the conclusion that subsoiling would be beneficial on 99% of all soils. There was no subsoiling done in Texas prior to this fall, and in our opinion this has had some effect on survival. Even apparently sandy soils have shown a hard-packed condition similar to plow sole about eight inches below the surface, which has slowed down the rate of planting considerably. Even Lund's 200 pounds of South Dakota dynamite had a hard job demonstrating proper technique. The only thing that seems to find digging easy in that type of sand is the gophers - and how they like it!

Speaking of gophers reminds us of rodent-control work. The greatest part of the control work in Texas has been done on gophers and kangaroo rats. The latter seem to have the same fondness for tamarix that the northern rabbits have for Chinese elms and they are even more destructive. The boys have been doing excellent extermination work, however, and much less damage is anticipated. A sure way to tell that a strip has recently been poisoned is to observe the flocks of crows which come in to feed on the dead rats. They clean them up so rapidly that unless an inspection trip is made the morning following poisoning operations, very few dead rats can be found. The crows do not appear to suffer any ill effects from this diet - which is too bad. Within the last two weeks some rabbit damage has become noticeable and poison-control methods are being used for these pests also. No shooting is being done in Texas by the Biological Survey crews.

Lund, Moffett, Byars, and their respective wives, took advantage of the Christmas holidays to take hurried trips to old Mexico. The collection of tall stories, Mexican cigarettes and Tequila which they brought back made all of us who did not get away a bit envious - and dizzy. As near as we could determine, those Mexican cigarettes are made of ground plug tobacco, and this Tequila is triple-distilled extract of cactus spines and red pepper. Two drops of that stuff should make a common fishing worm strangle a Texas rattler. Mr. Lund, in a very colorful report on the trip says, "We saw some of the most beautiful field shelterbelts near Falfurias, consisting of a single row of tamarix, very dense and reaching heights of 30 or 40 feet, planted for the protection of the orange groves."

On December 3 and 4 Mr. Webb attended the annual convention of the Texas Agricultural Assn., and gave a talk on "The Value of Trees on Farms." A number of notables in both official and business life attended and spoke on various agricultural subjects. Mr. H. G. Lucas, president of the association, is a staunch supporter of forestry in general, and very much interested in farm forestry for the Middle West.

: KANSAS :

One million two hundred sixty thousand trees were required to fill in the blank rows and failed spaces in 135 miles of strips in Kansas, during November and December.

More than 90 per cent of the strip owners wanted their strips replanted when they were approached prior to the replanting operations. Most of the owners who did not want the replanting work done were non-resident owners who are not in a position to furnish the necessary cooperation.

In the fall planting program, we had 13 planting crews and aimed to have 18 men on each crew. Counting foremen, tree tenders, marking crews, and planters, the crews averaged 285 trees per man per day for the two-month period. Moisture conditions are probably more favorable in this State this fall than they have ever been in the life of the Project. Entomologists report that only a very few eggs were laid by grasshoppers last summer. Drought and grasshoppers have been serious in Kansas.

We acknowledge with thanks the services of the following men who have served this Unit on detail: Harold E. Swim, Senior Clerk, Nebraska State Office; Kenneth Clark, Senior Clerk, North Dakota State Office; Harold Devick, South Dakota Nurseryman; Norman Devick, South Dakota Nurseryman; Bert W. DeMent, North Dakota, Junior Foreman; and Charles Pears, North Dakota, Junior Foreman. Our Executive Assistant, Robert L. Bennett, was on detail to the Regional Office to help out in the absence of Mr. Ihlanfeldt.

The Range Conservation Program was handled in the Plains Region with so much dispatch that the AAA people have commented very favorably on the resulting promptness in winding up the program. One of the Examiners remarked when told of the favorable comment on this matter that few people realized how many telegrams the Forest Service could send at night and how far the Forest Officers could drive before daylight the next morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Buskirk announce the birth of a son. A written announcement is lacking but it is believed this newcomer arrived December 31 and for all time hence will be known as John Lee Buskirk. (We may have fumbled the date and the name, Raymond, but the son remains). We offer sincere congratulations. Mr. Buskirk is a nurseryman in Kansas.

(Editor's Note: PLAINS FORESTER has an official announcement of this event, adorned with pink ribbon and a gold safety pin. The name is John LeRoy, the date was December 30, and the weight 9-1/4 pounds. Dad Buskirk says "J. L. is gaining in weight and nursery experience.")

"...Figuring approximately 24 rabbits consume as much as one cow and 32,000 rabbits have been killed in the past five months, we have saved pasture and feed for a herd of approximately 1400 cattle..."

(Note from Frank Sampson's diary -
U.S. Biological Survey - Kansas)

: NEBRASKA :

Old Man Winter has taken a firm grip on Nebraska so that all field activities except a small amount of rodent-control work have been suspended. A foot or more of snow in the northern part of the State, however, was more than welcome and we feel a little more secure about the success of our fall replanting work.

With considerable skepticism on our part and that of the "powers above," a shop was opened at Kearney early in December for overhauling all our automotive and tractor equipment during the winter season. To date we have completely overhauled four trucks and two tractors. Complete reconditioning of this equipment includes replacement of all worn parts, tightening bearings and bolts, straightening and repairing fenders, and otherwise getting it into first-class shape.

The use of the word "developed" instead of "built" in reporting upon a scarifying machine at our Fremont seed house in the December PLAINS FORESTER will make us more careful in the use of exact language in the future. Our apologies to the Lake States Experiment Station, who was the real father of the invention.

We hesitate to mention "stratification of seed" again after the publicity this subject has had in the past two issues of this publication; but since nearly all States have had some difficulties along this line, it is thought the following extract from a letter received from Carl Taylor last week might be of some interest to other nurserymen who are charged with seed responsibilities:

"About the only consistent thing about this business of heating of stratified seed seems to be the regular occurrence of inconsistencies. For instance: Russian Olive berries heat persistently in both sand and peat while the cleaned seed has shown no tendency so far to heat in either medium. The depulping is easy and the seed coat tough and woody so no cracking occurs.

"However, the depulping of hackberries, instead of being a safeguard as I had supposed, proves to be quite different. Entire berries stratified in peat heat badly, but not at all in sand; while the depulped seed placed in moist sand is starting to get warm. We are spreading it out on the floor outside the vaults where it can aerate and cool off and relieve the storage of the heat being created.

"The depulped hackberry, being wet when mixed with the sand, gave a more moist mixture than the 800-pound lot of dry berries put into moist sand; but not more moist than the two-bushel lot put down as an experiment December 20, which also shows no heating at the same temperatures. So there seems to be no definite tie-in of moisture factor with the result."

It is thought that temperature, which for one day reached 50° F., is the controlling factor in seed stratification with any medium. In the future Nebraska intends to pay more attention to this factor and try to never submit stratified seed to temperatures exceeding 40° F.

: JUST GOSSIP :
: ----- :
:(By, and about, everybody):

The bowling team is again "hitting" on all five after diligent practice and the expert coaching and signal drills conducted by Team Captain Paul Roberts. On Wednesday, January 6, three games were won from the Lincoln Laundry Team and on the following Wednesday the Forest Service Sluggers thrice emerged victorious over the hard-hitting Post Office team. In the latter series the team "shot" a three-game total of 2763 from scratch, which represents a game average of 921 and an average of 184 per man per game. This shows what a little practice and concentration will do and we have served notice on all teams in the Lincoln Commercial League to be on their toes when they bowl against the Forest Service. "The harder they come, the harder we bowl" is our motto from now on.

Frank Hausherr dropped into the R. O. on his way to Chicago, where he has enrolled in the LaSalle Institute for some courses in statistical work, cost accounting, etc. When he returns we expect that he will have some new wrinkles in these subjects--and no doubt the field will acquire some new wrinkles in its collective brow.

William B. Moffet returned to Nebraska from his Texas detail January 1. Bill took occasion while in the South to make a little tour into Old Mexico with Sam Byars, and is now in possession of a half-dozen gutteral sounds which he fondly believes to be Spanish. Harold Swim is also back from a month in Kansas and some leave in Oklahoma, so the Nebraska organization is beginning to look a little less like a skeleton.

Word reaches us that Bill Ihlanfeldt and a spell of sickness have been staging a battle in Washington, with Bill sort of leading with his chin, as it were. We're all betting on Bill, however, especially so since Mrs. Ihlanfeldt has gone back there to straighten him out.

Bob Bennett has shaken the dust of these precincts from his feet and returned to Kansas. Besides Bob's help to F.C., he and his wife were a welcome addition to the Forest Service family, socially. And it is said that the experts did their duty by Bob's poker education.

Kenneth Clark has also returned to his home grounds at Jamestown after a tour in the R. O. and at Manhattan. This reporter, being of the obtuse gender, claims no first-hand knowledge of the subject, but it is whispered that certain maidens in those parts are resignedly casting their nets in new directions.

We expect to hear less talk of the possibility of beating high hotel rates and poor accommodations by the use of trailers while traveling in the field since the Comptroller's pronouncement to the effect that "...payments of per diem in lieu of subsistence would not be authorized while an employee occupies such accommodations."

F.C. announces that the number of unsubmitted vouchers by States as of January 10 are: North Dakota, 33; South Dakota, 3; Nebraska, 7; Kansas, 32; Oklahoma and Texas, none; and R. O., 1. The recently closed Range Program is responsible for the high number in North Dakota and Kansas.